

Application No. 10/694,166
Filed: October 27, 2003
TC Art Unit: 2181
Confirmation No.: 3061

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending and stand rejected. By amendments made herein, claims 1-11 are amended, claims 12-16, 18, and 20-29 are canceled, claims 30-38 are added, and original claims 17 and 19 remain.

The claim rejections on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, are believed to be rendered moot in light of the foregoing claim amendments and cancellations.

Claims 1-2, 6-10, 15, 19-25, and 29 as filed stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Fosler, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0225811 ("Fosler").

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to emphasize that the microcomputer module receives power from the computer via the USB-compliant module interface in addition to exchanging data signals thereby. Thus, the apparatus of claim 1 comprises: (1) a microprocessor module powered by the USB port of a computer to which it is connected; (2) a battery-powered device; and (3) a bridging module capable of accommodating the dissimilar electrical operating ranges of the separately powered microprocessor module and battery-powered device.

The processor 120 of Fosler, including the microcontroller 320, is isolated from the computer via an isolated I/O interface

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104 (Para. [0035]; Fig. 3(b)). Instead of receiving power from the computer, a low voltage AC source or switching power supply is utilized to provide power to the isolated I/O interface 104, the processor 120 (and microcontroller 320), the DALI interface 102, and the DALI bus 111 (Para. [0034]).

In light of the foregoing, claim 1 as now amended is believed to be allowable over the prior art as represented by Fosler. Further, claims 2-11, 17, 19, and 30 are also believed to be allowable as being dependent upon a now-allowable base claim.

New independent claim 31 is directed to a USB-compatible battery-powered device which comprises, *inter alia*, a second microprocessor selectively powered by a power signal associated with a USB connection. This is clearly distinct from the teaching of Fosler as Fosler relies upon a single power source for powering its isolated I/O interface, processor (and microcontroller), DALI interface, and DALI bus. Dependent claims 32-38 are believed to be allowable at least on the same basis.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and allow the claims. If a telephone conversation would be of use in furthering the present application towards allowance, the Examiner

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is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone
number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

LON O. HOCKER III ET AL.

By: 

Gordon R. Moriarty

Registration No. 38,973

Attorney for Applicants

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,

GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP

Ten Post Office Square

Boston, MA 02109

Telephone: (617) 542-2290

Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313